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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING

IN CHARGE OF

EDNA L. FOLEY, R.N.

What Child Welfare Nursing Has Done in One City.—In June of this year, the District Nursing Association of Providence, R. I., had 1,800 children under school age under its care and not one was ill. Ten years ago the City Hospital built a pavilion for sick children at the urgent request of visiting nurses who had almost no places to which they could send sick babies. The building was constructed with anticipated enlargement in view and at the time usually had a waiting list, its wards were so crowded. Now they are seldom full; the supervisor of the Infant Welfare work says that the hospital never has to keep a sick child waiting.

In a children's hospital in New York State the age limit of children admitted has recently been raised because the beds have not been in full use during the past year. Surely these two hospitals are lively proof of the excellent community results obtained by the nurses working to keep well children well.

New York.—The National Tuberculosis Association, 381 Fourth Avenue, New York City, has recently completed an outline of lectures on tuberculosis for student nurses, occupational aids and social workers. The outline, with an attached bibliography, was prepared by Dr. H. A. Patterson and Mary E. Marshall, R.N. It gives in topical form material for ten excellent lectures on the subject of pulmonary tuberculosis. Patients as well as public health nurses realize how extremely inadequate is the instruction in tuberculosis in the average training school for nurses. Tuberculosis is more than the specialty of a comparatively few physicians and nurses, it is a menace to every one of us. Until we make it possible for our student nurses to realize its tremendous significance, its widespread distribution and its preventability, we shall continue to find whole communities uninstructed because the public health nurse was given no opportunity to study this great big subject during her three years of training. We do not like to hear nurses say that they are afraid of tuberculosis, but we shall continue to hear this statement, over and over again, until we provide the knowledge that makes fear impossible. This lecture outline which the National Tuberculosis Association will be glad to furnish in mimeographed form to any training school in the country, if carefully used, will do a very great deal to dispel the ignorance of many graduate as well as student nurses on the subject.

Missouri, St. Louis.—The Municipal Child Health Center, 10th and Emmet Streets, held its third graduating exercises recently. Forty babies were given diplomas and graduated from the infant conference into the pre-school clinic. The diplomas are given only under the following conditions: (1) That the mother has been faithful in carrying out the instructions of the physician and nurse; (2) That she has brought the baby to the clinic at least once a month; (3) That the child is in good physical condition. The exercises were held in the Red Cross Health Center and after a brief program which consisted of a solo and several short speeches, Grace Anderson, superintendent of the Municipal nurses, presented the diplomas and one of the directors gave each baby, in addition, a small bunch of sweet peas. The oldest graduate, a member of the first class, who is now five years old and received the first diploma just three years ago, was present. He enters kindergarten this fall. Seven graduates of last years class are going regularly to the pre-school clinic. A framed diploma hangs in a conspicuous place on the wall of the clinic and a printed notice under it tells each mother that her baby will receive one of these in due course of time if she is faithful in her care. The diploma is a great drawing card and the forty white mothers whose babies received theirs this spring were as proud as if their children were finishing high school. Graduating exercises will shortly be held for twenty-two colored babies. Katharine L. Kottkamp is the Municipal nurse in charge of the Center.

The American Red Cross Health Center in St. Louis houses the Child Welfare Conference, the sub-station for students from the practice district of the St. Louis course in Public Health Nursing, and a Y. W. C. A. Bureau that is doing intensive work among foreign-born women and girls. The Center is housed in an old saloon, but the store and the two floors over it have been so well fixed up and are so attractively furnished and adapted to their new purpose that it should not be difficult to copy the idea in many other cities. Mabel Welsh (Boston City Hospital and Teachers College) is the Director of the Health Center. Twenty students from the Army School of Nursing are now taking their special Public Health work at the Center.

Vacation Notes.—Ambitious public health nurses sometimes make the very great mistake of spending their entire vacation in attendance at a summer public health nursing course. A brief rest before the course, even when taken as unpaid leave of absence, enables the student to get much more benefit from it and a second rest taken before returning to work means that the nurse will go back rested and refreshed to a job that takes every bit of her mental and physical

energy. It is neither fair to one's work nor to one's self to spend an entire summer vacation in postgraduate study. It is possible, occasionally, nevertheless, to see new work and get new ideas and at the same time enjoy one's vacation. Three St. Louis Health Department nurses were recently in Chicago and within a few days had visited the following institutions: Hull House, an open air school, a baby clinic, a nutrition clinic, a day nursery (all in one group of buildings), Spalding School for Crippled Children, a tuberculosis dispensary, the Chicago Lying-in Hospital and Dispensary, the Municipal Tuberculosis Sanitarium, a Visiting Nurse sub-station and the Main Office of the Visiting Nurse Association. This sort of sight-seeing is not nearly so taxing as a vacation spent in the class-room and the nurses feel that they have got both refreshment and rest from their vacation for, after all, a rest to a great many people means doing and seeing something different.

Boston.—The District Nurse Association of Boston has recently purchased the house adjoining its former offices at 561 Massachusetts Avenue and now has rooms for additional class and conference rooms, a larger dining room, and sleeping rooms for some of the students attending its postgraduate course.

Connecticut, New Haven.—An Institute of Industrial Nursing under the auspices of the New Haven Visiting Nurse Association will be held September 20 to 30, inclusive, at 35 Elm Street, New Haven. An intensive and interesting program has been prepared and the following experts in public health will give lectures: Industrial Hygiene, Professor C. E. A. Winslow; Industrial Nursing, Florence Swift Wright; Hospital Management and Record Keeping, C. C. Burlingane; Public Health Nursing, Mary Grace Hills; Industrial Diseases, Dr. George Blumer; Industrial Relation, R. M. Thompson; Social Problem, Mary P. Wheeler; Industrial Psychology, H. C. Link; Nutrition and Budgets, Maria Nelson. Only graduate registered nurses interested in industrial work are eligible, preferably nurses with public health experience. There is a fee, payable at the time of registration, which must be not later than September 12th.

Harriet Leck has been appointed Director of the Bureau of Nursing and Child Hygiene with the State Department of Health in Michigan. Miss Leck has been acting superintendent of the New Haven Visiting Nurse Association during the year's leave of absence granted the superintendent, Mary Grace Hills.